

Allowable Subject Matter

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brett Valiquet on November 18, 2010.

Claims 27 and 38 now read as the following:

27. A method for error handling in a printer or copier, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of separate monitoring units each located in a different device component of the printer or copier, each monitoring unit detecting a respective error state at a respective time point represented by a respective error signal from said respective monitoring unit of the printer or copier created by a single causative error;

transmitting the detected error states and the respective time points to a coordination module which receives them;

storing said received error states and the respective time points at a storage associated with said coordination module where combined they form a temporally successive error state pattern comprising said error states and the respective time points caused by said single causative error;

evaluating the stored error state pattern by the coordination module;

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for said evaluation, said coordination module comparing the stored temporally successive error state pattern comprising said error states and the respective time points caused by said single causative error with predetermined error state patterns, each of said predetermined error state patterns defining a temporal sequence of error states ~~at respective time points~~ of a predetermined single error type, and determining at least one error type identifying said single causative error; and

implementing a corrective action by the coordination module dependent on the error type.

38. A device for error handling in a printer or copier, comprising:

a plurality of separate monitoring units each located in a different device component of the printer or copier, each monitoring unit detecting a respective error state at a respective time point represented by a respective error signal from said respective monitoring unit of the printer or copier created by a single causative error;

a coordination module which receives the detected error states and the respective time points transmitted to the coordination module by the separate monitoring units;

a storage associated with said coordination module in which are stored said received error states and the respective time points where combined they form a temporally successive error state pattern comprising said error states and the respective time points caused by said single causative error;

said coordination module evaluating the stored error state pattern by comparing the stored error state pattern comprising said error states and the respective time points caused by said single causative error with predetermined error state patterns, each of said predetermined error state patterns defining a temporal sequence of error states ~~at respective time points~~ of a predetermined single error type, and determining at least one error type identifying said causative error; and

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said coordination module implementing a corrective action dependent on the error type.

Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance is stated below.

Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance for Claims 27-38 is stated below.

Regarding independent Claims 27 and 38, the Examiner found neither prior art cited in its entirety, nor based on the prior art, found any motivation to combine any of the said prior art that teaches:

for said evaluation, said coordination module comparing the stored temporally successive error state pattern comprising said error states and the respective time points caused by said single causative error with predetermined error state patterns, each of said predetermined error state patterns defining a temporal sequence of error states of a predetermined single error type, and determining at least one error type identifying said single causative error

The dependent claims are allowable due to its dependence to the independent claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MING HON whose telephone number is (571)270-5245. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:30 to 6:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark K. Zimmerman can be reached on (571)272-7653. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. H./

Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/Mark K Zimmerman/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625